

REPRESENTATIVE OF DANIEL BRENT.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 420.]

MAY 24, 1842.

Mr. A. H. H. STUART, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT :

*The Committee of Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of William Brent, brother and sole heir-at-law of Daniel Brent, deceased, late consul of the United States at Paris, submit the following report :*

The petitioner states, that he is the only surviving brother and sole heir-at-law of Daniel Brent, deceased, who was for some years consul of the United States at Paris. Whilst he was acting in that capacity, in the year 1835, certain difficulties arose between the Governments of France and the United States, which led to the withdrawal of the ministers plenipotentiary of both countries, and a suspension of diplomatic relations between the Governments for a period but little less than a year. During all this time the archives of the legation were left in the care of Mr. Brent, and he was compelled at a great sacrifice of his convenience to remain in Paris and to perform very important and responsible duties, not properly appertaining to his consular office. The committee have inspected the original correspondence between Mr. Brent and the Department of State, and find that it was very voluminous and important, embracing sixty-eight letters, in which he communicated, from time to time, to his Government, every thing that it was important the Executive should know in regard to the political movements in France. He seems, indeed, to have performed with singular discretion and fidelity all the duties of a chargé d'affaires during the whole time that a minister of the United States ceased to reside near the Government of France. For these services, Mr. Brent received no compensation in his lifetime, and his legal representative now seeks a suitable remuneration for them at the hands of the Government. The committee are of the opinion that the claim is founded in justice, and, upon examining the Executive archives, they find numerous instances in which demands of a similar character have been paid ; and they therefore feel no hesitation in reporting a bill for the payment to the legal representative of Mr. Brent of a sum equal to the salary of chargé d'affaires for the period that he discharged the duties of that office.

